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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the processing of claims by veterans for compensation for certain mental health conditions based on military sexual trauma.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. DELGADO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the processing of claims by veterans for compensation for certain mental health conditions based on military sexual trauma.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROCESSING OF**  
2 **CLAIMS BY VETERANS FOR COMPENSATION**  
3 **FOR CERTAIN MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS**  
4 **BASED ON MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1166 of title 38, United  
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “or air service” both places it  
8 appears and inserting “air, or space service”;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in the heading, by striking “IN GEN-  
11 ERAL” and inserting “PROCESSING”;

12 (B) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-  
13 retary”; and

14 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
15 paragraphs:

16 “(2) A peer support specialist of the Department—

17 “(A) may advocate for a veteran in the course  
18 of a claim described in paragraph (1); and

19 “(B) may not participate in the adjudication of  
20 such a claim.”;

21 (3) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
22 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

23 (4) by inserting, after subsection (a), the fol-  
24 lowing new subsection (b):

25 “(b) REFERRALS TO MST COORDINATORS.—The  
26 Secretary shall include, in forms for claims described in

1 subsection (a), an option for a veteran to elect to be re-  
2 ferred to a military sexual trauma coordinator of the Vet-  
3 erans Health Administration at the facility of the Depart-  
4 ment nearest to the residence of such veteran.”; and

5 (5) in subsection (c), as redesignated—

6 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-  
7 retary”; and

8 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
9 paragraphs:

10 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that peer support  
11 specialists of the Department receive annual training on  
12 how to provide peer support regarding military sexual  
13 trauma.

14 “(3) The Secretary shall provide annual training, re-  
15 garding the processing of claims described in subsection  
16 (a), to the following individuals:

17 “(A) Military sexual trauma coordinators of the  
18 Veterans Health Administration.

19 “(B) Peer support specialists of the Depart-  
20 ment.”;

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

22 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such  
23 section is amended by striking “**Specialized**  
24 **teams to evaluate claims**” and inserting  
25 “**Claims**”.

1           (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
2       at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is  
3       amended by striking the item relating to section  
4       1166 and inserting the following:

“1166. Claims involving military sexual trauma.”.